

REMARKS

Claims 4-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Burnham (US 5,792,401). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

In the admitted prior art, as expressed in the Jepsen claim language, the hose length is composed of lengths of material, including a reinforcing layer, and a reinforcing rod wherein the reinforcing rod is an external element of the hose length. The concern in the hose of the prior art is to create a portion of the hose length having no external reinforcing rod.

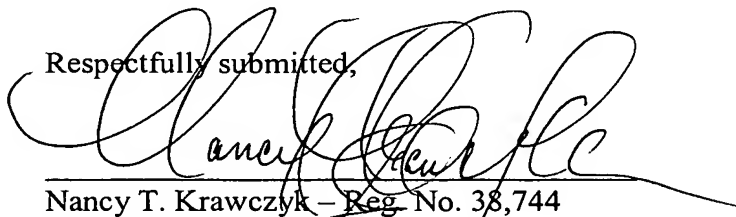
Burnham teaches the formation of an internally reinforced tubular material. Burnham is interested in creating a tubular material having no reinforcement at all. For portions of the tube wherein no reinforcement is desired, the tube material is cooled or otherwise treated to create "solidification of the tube prohibiting further embedding of the reinforcement" into the tube material (col 11, lines 49-56).

While the admitted prior art hose has both internal and external reinforcement means and is directed to the creation of a large hose, Burnham is directed to the creation of a very small, dimensionally accurate tube having portions of absolutely no reinforcement. As the admitted prior art hose desires a continuous internal reinforcement, one skilled in the art would not look to the teachings of Burnham who is concerned about creating zero-reinforced zones in the tubing.

Thus the admitted prior art in view of Burnham fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness of the invention as recited in claims 4-8. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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